

The effects of cover cropping practices on pest beetles in eggplant

- Colorado potato beetle(CPB) and flea beetles are major pests in several crops, including eggplant.
- Previous work has shown that mulching and cover crops delay infestation, and reduce beetle numbers and damage.
- This study was intended to investigate how tillage practices affect weeds, plant nutrients, soil health, and green house gases.
- High beetle numbers allowed us to expand this work to also look at pests and beneficial insects.



The treatments in this study are crimson clover mulch, clover and rye mixed, and bare ground.

We expect to see that complex mulches increase predator numbers, and inhibit pests.

Predators are attacked by parasitoid wasps, and their populations might also be increased by mulches.

We'll be comparing insect numbers to plant health and to fruit quality measurements to see if they have an economic impact on production.